



# Three Generations of Successful Magnetic Healers



DR. PAUL CASTER, Ottumwa, Iowa  
Died April, 1881



DR. J. S. CASTER, Burlington, Iowa  
Died July, 1914



DR. CHAS. E. CASTER, Burlington, Iowa

**Dr. Chas. E. Caster, Office, 221-222 Tama Bldg., Burlington, Ia.**



# National Institute of Chiropractic Research

2950 North Seventh Street, Suite 200, Phoenix AZ 85014 USA  
(602) 224-0296; www.nicr.org

## Chronology of Charles E. Caster, D.C. & Family

word count: 1,804

filename: Caster/CHRONO 9/15/96

Joseph C. Keating, Jr., Ph.D.  
6135 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix AZ 85012 USA  
(602) 264-3182; JCKeating@aol.com

### Color Code:

Green: for emphasis

Red & Magenta: questionable or uncertain information

Year/Volume Index to the *Journal of the National Chiropractic Association* (1949-1963), formerly *National Chiropractic Journal* (1939-1948), formerly *The Chiropractic Journal* (1933-1938), formerly *Journal of the International Chiropractic Congress* (1931-1932) and *Journal of the National Chiropractic Association* (1930-1932):

Year	Vol.	Year	Vol.	Year	Vol.	Year	Vol.
		1941	10	1951	21	1961	31
		1942	11	1952	22	1962	32
1933	1	1943	12	1953	23	1963	33
1934	3	1944	14	1954	24		
1935	4	1945	15	1955	25		
1936	5	1946	16	1956	26		
1937	6	1947	17	1957	27		
1938	7	1948	18	1958	28		
1939	8	1949	19	1959	29		
1940	9	1950	20	1960	30		



Front row, L to R: "A.V. Coble of Woodbine, president and candidate for re-election; L.M. Rogers of Webster City, candidate for president; H.A. Reiners of West Union, running for director from the northeastern division; Charles E. Caster of Burlington, secretary and candidate for re-election. In the rear row, they are, left to right: L.L. Dolson of Cedar Rapids, running for director from the east central division; C.H. McClure of Rock Rapids, candidate for vice president; E.L. Michaelson of Glenwood, candidate for vice president, and Jerry Bruner of Des Moines, candidate for secretary"; from *The Hawkeye Chiropractor* 1927 (Dec); 3(1): 7; Charles E. Caster, D.C. is Editor of *The Hawkeye Chiropractor*

1870: autobiography by Paul Caster (***Life and Practice of Dr. Paul Caster***) indicates he is located in Ottumwa Iowa (Caster, 1870; **Palmer Archives?**; in my Magnetism folder)

1874: **Andrew T Still** "flings to the breeze the banner of osteopathy"; item in ***Fountain Head News*** (1924 (Sept 13); 14(2):13) notes:

### Interesting History

An extract from the history of Wapello County, Vol. 1, page 238, Harrison L Waterman, supervising editor, 1914.

As a matter of history it might be well to state by way of parentheses that Dr. Andrew T. Still, founder of the Osteopathic college at Kirksville, Mo. was one of Dr. (Paul) **Caster's** patients. It was soon discovered that Dr. Still possessed the same magnetic virtues as Dr. Paul, who advised Dr. Still to start in the practice, and shortly thereafter he began treating patients according to his preceptor's system. He finally founded the school at Kirksville, which now has the national reputation as the leading college of Osteopathy in the country.

Additional information: Dr. Still first considered locating his school at Bloomington, Iowa, but he found there was another sanatorium there, so decided on Kirksville, Mo.

1915 (Oct 9): ***Fountain Head News*** (4[33]) includes: -mentions Caster the magnetic healer (p. 2)

### PHOTOGRAPH



"Leaders of the Iowa Chiropractors association opened the organization's annual convention here this morning. Among early arrivals were: Helen L. Hamilton, assistant secretary, and C.E. Caster, Burlington, secretary; R.L. Sheeler, Council Bluffs, vice president, and A.V. Coble, Woodbine, president." *The Hawkeye Chiropractor* 1927 (Dec); 3(1): 10; C.E. Caster is Editor of the *The Hawkeye Chiropractor*

1939 (Dec 1): letter from Cash Asher, Public Relations Director for the CHB, to CS Cleveland; John H. Stoke DC, PhC of

Roanoke VA and **Charles E. Caster**, D.C., Ph.C. of 203 Kresge Bldg, Burlington IA are on the **ICA Board of Control** (Cleveland papers, CCC/KC)

1942 (Sept): **The Chiropractor** [38(9)]: includes (from Cleveland papers, CCC/KC; in my Palmer box) many articles about the war, also:

-Radio Directory of chiropractic broadcasts, including those of **Charles E. Caster** DC who speaks on Burlington IA's KBUR and **J.N. Haldeman** at 614 Broder Bldg., Regina, Sask., who speaks on Station CKCK on Wednesdays at 4:15 PM (pp. 25-6)

1951 (July): **ICA Review** (6[1]) includes:

- "I.C.A. celebrates silver anniversary" (p. 4) notes that **Charles E. Caster** DC was a member of the first Board of Control of the Chiropractic Health Bureau (CHB), later the ICA

1951 (Sept): **ICA Review** (6[3]) includes:

- "A Tribute" (p. 8) notes that **Charles E. Caster** DC was a member of the first Board of Control of the Chiropractic Health Bureau (CHB), later the ICA

1953 (Nov): **ICA Review** (8[5]) includes:

- "Laymen's Page: They said they were crazy" by **Charles E. Caster** DC, PhC; editor notes that "Dr. Caster is adviser for International Chiropractic Laymen's Society No. 2 of Iowa, located in Burlington. This article shows the Chiropractors viewpoint of the I.C.L.S. and its work." (pp. 14, 32):

#### THEY SAID THEY WERE CRAZY

When Alexander Graham Bell talked to someone in another building by means of a wire, people said he was crazy. When some men put a cable under the Hudson River for a telegraph line to Washington, people said they were crazy and were going to put them in an asylum. Such great people would have been committed to mental institutions had it not been for two things: they had the conviction that they were doing the right thing and they had the fortitude to carry on in spite of those who told them, "It can't be done," simply because those critics, themselves, could not understand, could not envision it.

Starting a laymen's society is no different. There are several essentials. You must, yourself, be sold on the idea, know that it has worked for others and will work for you. You must have the fortitude to carry through that which you start...even if people tell you that you're crazy. You must be big enough to carry through the layman's idea - a Laymen's Society is a laymen's job, not yours; they, not you, must run the show.

You are the adviser to the organization. Don't *tell* the laymen what to do...*suggest* to them what to do and how to do it. Watch closely to see that everything you do is in line with their objectives. Don't veto their ideas...suggest alternatives. Be firm...but be gentle. Such a policy produces results. I know from my many years experience with laymen's groups.

There is one thing any American will not put up with and that is being told that he *can't* do something. Do't say, "I can't get started." And don't let your laymen say, "We *can't* do anything." Capitalize on this trait of Americans...make them prove tht they *can*.

The first step is to get a group of your key patients together at your office. Don't preach, don't lecture, but instead talk to them as friends, as one man to another, and then ask them:

"How would you like to be deprived of the right to go to a Chiropractor? There are forces at work right now to try to take that

right away from you, that is why we are here tonight. If you were taken to a hospital you would be deprived of the right to Chiropractic care. Laws are being considered to compel you to be vaccinated, inoculated and to use your school children for experimentation with new drugs, even though some of them - perhaps your own - will be rendered cripples or even killed."

The reaction from your patients will probably be something like this: "What can we do about it? We are only a few."

Well, who makes compulsory laws? Elected representatives. Who elects such representatives? You do. If there are but 25 in your group, each one can influence at least 10 votes - that totals 250. That is 250 probably added to those who would vote on your side already. If you have 100 laymen you could have well over 1000 votes lined up. Such power, rightly used, can keep compulsion out of the laws of our country, states and cities.

Remember, fire spreads and so will this spark which you kindle in your laymen spread. They will take that spark and build it into a flaming torch and carry it on. Your real job, as adviser to the Society, will be to keep your members, in their enthusiasm, from letting the fire get out of control...you must keep them at the right job, see that they use their fire to light the way, not to start a conflagration.

Do not start on too wide a scale. It is better to have a small beginning with steady growth than an impressive start which will dwindle to nothingness. Remember, too, that your officers must grow, must become acquainted with their jobs, gain experience in conducting meetings, learn to plan enjoyable and entertaining as well as fruitful meetings, and most of all, learn to work together. All this takes time...but it can be done.

Great men have been called "madmen" in their time...but they have proven themselves. You can do the same for Chiropractic by organizing a unit of the international Chiropractic Laymen's Society...be the spark that kindles men to action.

1981 (Oct 8): letter to Glenda Wiese MA from Cynthia Short, 682 32nd St, Des Moines IA 50312 (H: 515-279-8130; O: 515-226-9001); Ms. Short is Paul Caster's great-great granddaughter; she reports:

...Jacob Sylveseter Caster, born in 1860, was one of Dr. Paul's sons, the only who was reported to have his fther's gift of magnetic healing.

As an aside, J.S. Caster carried on the magnetic healing business in Burlington IA, starting in 1889. He was elected as mayor of Burlington in 1904. One of his patients was Iowa Governor and Senator John Gear, who attracted several political friends to Dr. J.S. Caster's practice. I hope to send you a copy of the obituary of Dr. J.S., contained in the *Burlington Hawkeye*, dated July 12, 1914 (he was also elected President of the Iowa League of Municipalities in 1905).

Dr. J.S. had a son, **Charles E. Caster**, D.C., who graduated from Palmer College, and practiced in Burlington, IA. I do not know when Dr. Charles graduated from Palmer - he may have been one of the first students there. Is there a way to check through your College's records? Dr. Charles Caster was Secretary/Treasurer of the Iowa Chiropractors Association in 1926, when an annual convention was sponsored in Des Moines on November 14-15, 1926. I have reference to a section of the *Des Moines Sunday Register*, dated October 31, 1926, concerning chiropractic and this convention, with Dr. Charles pictured with Dr. B.J. Palmer and other Iowa chiropractors. mrs. Ludwig has a photo depicting the three generations of "magnetic" healers - Drs. Paul, J.S. and Charles E. Caster - which I hope to obtain and share with you, along with many interesting newspaper clippings on articles their healing practices. There may have been some close ties between the Palmer and Casters in those days.

---

**References:**

- Beck, Brian L. Magnetic healing, spiritualism and chiropractic: Palmer's union of methodologies, 1886-1895. *Chiropractic History* 1991 (Dec); 11(2): 10-6
- Caster, Paul. *Life and practice of Dr. Paul Caster*. Columbus: Nevins & Myers, Printers, 1870
- Caster, Charles E. They said they were crazy. *ICA Review* 1953 (Nov); 8(5): 14, 32
- Gielow, Vern. *Old Dad Chiro: a biography of D.D. Palmer, founder of chiropractic*. Davenport IA: Bawden Brothers, 1981
- Palmer DD, editor. *The Magnetic Cure* 1896 (Jan); Number 15 (Palmer College Archives, Davenport, Iowa)
- Palmer DD (Ed.): *The Chiropractic* 1897a (Jan); Number 17 (Palmer College Archives)
- Palmer DD (Ed.): *The Chiropractic* 1897b (March); Number 18 (Palmer College Archives)
- Palmer DD (Ed.): *The Chiropractic* 1899; Number 26 (Palmer College Archives)
- Palmer DD (Ed.): *The Chiropractic* 1900; Number 26 (Palmer College Archives)
- Palmer DD (Ed.): *The Chiropractic* 1902; Number 29 (Palmer College Archives)

Pages 1-10: Progressive Men of Iowa  
Pages 11-15: Healing By Laying-On of Hands  
Pages 16-19: History of Wapello County, Iowa  
Pages 20-23: Ottumwa, Iowa (Images of America)  
Pages 24-25: Casters of Iowa - Keating  
Pages 26-29: Images  
Page 30: 1860 Census return



PRINTED BY  
CONAWAY & NEAVE  
222 MOORE

Biographies and Portraits

...OF THE...

# Progressive Men of Iowa

---

Leaders in Business, Politics and the Professions

TOGETHER WITH  
AN ORIGINAL AND AUTHENTIC

## History of the State

...BY...

Ex-Lieutenant-Governor E. J. Gue

---

# INDEX

Adair, Dr. Lyman J.	352	Clark, Benjamin Buckingham	416
Adkins, John Vertner	372	Clark, Charles Clapp	412
Ahlbrecht, William H.	221	Clarke, A. D.	184
Alney, Daniel Webster	421	Colclo, Croton Cortice	558
Aldrich, Charles	153	Cole, Elmer J.	427
Aldrich, Edwin A.	454	Cole, Rossetter G.	516
Allen, Milton Henry	322	Condit, William Davidson	306
Allen, Manning Leonard	425	Conley, Joseph Bernard	303
Allison, George R.	441	Cooper, John K.	428
Adderson, Edwin	322	Cottle, Cassius Clay	405
Anson, Henry	271	Coutts, John H.	457
Archer, James	306	Cover, O. Alvin	212
Baker, Luther Elijah	275	Conniff, Robert E.	324
Baldwin, John Nehemiah	284	Craig, John E.	428
Baldwin, William Wright	431	Crapo, Philip M.	272
Bandy, Dr. Robert S.	415	Cravath, Samuel Austin	445
Barhydt, Theodore Wells	308	Crosson, F. E.	537
Bartow, George L.	241	Davenport, Francis M.	196
Bennett, Albert T.	372	Davidson, Thomas M.	213
Bennett, Henry	274	Davis, Francis Marion	422
Bicknell, Anson Dodge	476	Davis, Mahlon James	480
Birchard, Abner Theodore	286	Day, Frederick Jackson	505
Blanchard, Lucian C.	285	Dayton, John Franklin	322
Bloodgood, Freeman H.	247	Dayton, Henry	521
Bloomer, D. C.	452	Delmege, George J.	495
Blythe, Smith Green	288	Denmond, David Thatcher	277
Boucher, Dr. Francis Henry	555	Deur, Clement Henry	528
Bowen, E. E.	329	Dewell, James S.	429
Bowers, Henry Francis	201	Dewitt, Charles Herman	272
Boyd, Prof. Hugh	384	DeWolf, Merton E.	538
Breckenridge, Allender I.	278	Dickman, John William	338
Brewster, Thomas Kelsey	197	Dingley, Frank, Sr.	341
Brooks, Dr. James M.	234	Dodge, Augustus C.	149
Brown, Cassius M.	232	Dodge, Gen. Grenville M.	157
Brown, Ernest C.	460	Dodge, Henry	148
Brunson, Asabel A.	530	Dodge, Nathan Phillips	280
Burch, George B.	458	Dodge, William Wallace	151
Burkart, Charles J.	261	Douglas, George	455
Burton, Asa Huntington	478	Dubbert, Bernhard	226
Cardell, Walter W.	536	Duncombe, John Francis	161
Carr, Edward M.	185	Earle, Willard Chauncy	489
Casady, James N., Jr.	251	Eaton, Senator William	535
Casady, Jefferson P.	249	Eaton, Willard Lee	448
Casady, Thomas E.	250	Eddy, Willard	274
Caster, Jacob S.	424	Edgers, Eben Barton	533
Caster, Paul	422	Edmondson, James Depew	337
Chassell, Edward D.	287	Edwards, Millard Pillmore	390
Cheshire, Thomas Abbott	414	Elliott, Thomas Knox	482
Christian, George Melville	162	Ellsworth, Eugene Stafford	335
Christy, Ira Sheridan	212	Evans, James McFarland	394

Evans, Marion LeGrand	508	Hoffman, Phil	420
Fairechild, Dr. David S.	436	Holbrook, Parker Kimball	417
Farley, James M.	290	Holmes, Richard	481
Fellows, Homer Harrison	527	Holmes, Samuel	185
Ferguson, Joseph P.	496	Hoopes, William Henry	425
Fletcher, Charles W.	330	Howard, Joseph Edward	170
Flickinger, Albert T.	446	Hoyt, William Henry	470
Flindt, William	362	Hubbard, Nathaniel Mead	355
Forbes, James Madison	243	Hubbard, Nathaniel Mead, Jr.	357
Forsyth, Robert	518	Hubinger, John C.	226
Fouse, Rev. Dewalt S.	472	Huffaker, Henry Harrison	480
Fowler, Philip Laffer	359	Hukill, Anson Theodore	410
Francis, Bruce	354	Hussey, John Marion	344
Freelove, Arthur Loyd	242	Ingham, Capt. William H.	409
Frick, Maxwell W.	237	Irish, Harry Russell	248
Fuller, William E.	374	Iten, Louis	413
Fullerton, Kern M.	204	Ives, Charles John	323
Furnas, Elwood	550	Jackson, Albert E.	557
Gardner, Dr. Ira Kilbourn	364	Jamison, James Harvey	354
Gardner, William Watson	190	Johnson, Julius Lawrence	547
Garfield, George Selwyn	520	Johnston, Rufus Sherman	548
Geiger, William G. W.	307	Johnston, William F.	329
Getz, Hiram Landis	194	Joice, Peter Martin	173
Gibson, John	254	Jordan, Richard Francis	360
Gilliland, Shirley	468	Joy, William L.	482
Gorrell, J. R.	540	Junkin, Joseph M.	509
Griffin, Dr. Francis	358	Kelly, John Charles	464
Griswold, Henry J.	354	Kelly, Thomas Francis	461
Gue, Benjamin F.	147	Kenyon, Willard Gibbs	200
Guittar, Theodore	189	Kilborn, William Franklin	406
Haley, Felix Emmet	299	Kinne, LaVega G.	290
Hall, Elmer Ellsworth	536	Kuehule, Carl F.	469
Hall, Lincoln Grant	515	Lacey, Edwin Ruthven	380
Hall, Percy Wavil	232	Laffar, Gordon Warren	233
Hambleton, Albert F. N.	553	LaForce, Dr. Daniel A.	551
Hamilton, John D. Miller	443	Lane, Clarke White	176
Hamilton, William Edgar	539	Larrabee, William	282
Hammond, Hiram	205	Lathrop, Henry Warren	389
Hanchette, Dr. John L.	422	Laub, Henry Clay	546
Hanley, Thomas B.	496	Law, Robert	342
Hanssen, Gustavus Adolphus	493	Laylander, Orange Judd	376
Harriman, Wilbert Eugene	370	Lebeck, Carl Ludwig	511
Harriman, W. F.	369	Leith, Dr. Alexander R.	549
Harris, Robert Henry	367	Leonard, John Calvin	503
Harshbarger, Henry Clay	543	Letts, Frank Crawford	321
Hart, Edward Lorenzo	192	Lewis, Judge Charles Henry	477
Harvey, Charles B.	228	Lewis, Lester Warren	175
Hatch, Ezra Kidder	556	Lewis, Judge W. R.	245
Head, Albert	177	Lincoln, George Allen	296
Head, Mahlon	453	Lindberg, John Augustus	379
Heath, Henry Robbins	289	Lloyd, Edward S.	473
Hecht, Frederick	486	Lloyd, John B.	408
Heinly, Benjamin Franklin	404	Maclean, Paul	451
Heinsheimer, D. L.	211	Macy, Sherman Riley	318
Hertert, Emil B. M.	512	Madden, P. W.	510
Hibben, Edwin Hayden	231	Magee, Rev. John Calvin	419
Hill, Gershon Hyde	512	Mammen, G. H.	407
Hinchman, Joseph V.	400	Markley, Henry H.	472
Hobart, Alva C.	474	Marsh, Charles Franklin	545
Hobson, Alfred Norman	329	Marsh, Oscar Hamdon	246

Marshall, Rev. Alexander S.	467	Powell, Dr. Francis Marion	325
Marston, Charles Samuel	484	Powers, John Leslie	210
Martin, Col. Larkin M.	217	Prall, Arthur Amin	216
Martin, Wesley	421	Pray, Gilbert Baldwin	357
Maxwell, Dr. Thomas J.	523	Preston, Byron Webster	373
McArthur, William Corse	442	Price, Benjamin	322
McClary, Ebenezer Erskine	395	Price, Samuel David	311
McClain, Emlin	298	Pugh, Robert Wood	240
McClure, Isaac N.	206	Putman, Tilford Lynn	255
McDonald, William Joseph	524	Rath, John	498
McElroy, Ebenezer Erskine	395	Read, William Lewis	529
McGavren, James Kirkland	542	Rawson, Charles Elbert	317
McHenry, W. A.	182	Rohmann, Prof. J. W.	397
McKeever, A. J.	298	Rice, Hon. James A.	229
McMillan, Horace G.	504	Richardson, Napoleon B.	549
McNutt, Samuel	262	Rickel, Henry	328
Melendy, Peter	396	Riggen, John A.	381
Metcalf, George Washington	383	Roberts, Abel Commins	214
Metzger, George	401	Robertson, James Carson	401
Miles, Lewis	187	Robertson, Nathan Ande	502
Miller, Henry	377	Robinson, John Blair	396
Mills, Prof. Earl	290	Robinson, Lyman Bartlett	354
Mills, Mason P.	507	Rosenberger, Absalom	333
Mills, Oliver	180	Ruegnitz, Charles	469
Mitchell, William Edwin	514	Ruth, Charles Edward	215
Moffit, Col. John T.	295	Ryan, Judge David	525
Moorhead, Dr. James	267	Saunders, Charles George	244
Morrledge, George Osborn	392	Sawyer, Frank Payson	195
Morrison, Joseph Blacker	313	Sayles, Edward Ridell	371
Mosher, Lemuel Leigh	294	Scar, Ole	305
Mowry, Welcome	300	Schmidt, Harry	590
Musser, Richard	343	Schroeder, Frank Nicholas	411
Nelson, N. L.	304	Schueler, Adalbert	237
Nichols, Edmund Elion	398	Secor, Ellsworth E.	253
Nicholson, Delos Fremont	181	Secor, Eugene	252
Nicol, Dr. John Harvey	260	Seeds, Edward P.	363
Nicoll, David	400	Seevers, George W.	533
Norris, William Henry	171	Sennett, John Albert	241
Ormsby, Col. Edwin S.	332	Shaw, Leslie Mortier	167
Olson, O. A.	541	Shaw, Col. William T.	163
Packard, Stephen Bennett	418	Shinn, Frank	500
Palmer, David J.	292	Sigworth, Harrison W.	223
Palmer, Luke, Sr.	234	Singmaster, Samuel	290
Palmer, Luke, Jr.	235	Sison, Eugene Robert	395
Patterson, John W.	326	Small, William Edward	475
Parvin, Theodore S.	155	Smith, Dr. George Alfred	278
Patrick, James Perkins	270	Smith, Jesse Hitchcock	506
Patrick, Oscar Rudd	327	Smith, Lewis H.	365
Patterson, Michael Frampton	360	Smith, Samuel Francis	440
Paul, Daniel McFarland	454	Smith, William M.	352
Paulger, Frederick Wheatley	391	Smock, Finley M.	388
Penrose, Emlen G.	492	Smouse, Dr. David W.	439
Perkins, Charles Elliott	165	Snyder, Edward Allen	239
Perkins, George D.	281	Squire, James W.	219
Perrin, Wm. B.	287	Spencer, Robert H.	319
Phelps, Julian	471	Spering, Francis Edwin	398
Pierce, Franklin Gilman	327	St. John, R. T.	430
Piper, Frank Talcott	444	Stanton, Maj. Cornelius A.	450
Place, Thomas Wheelock	218	Steele, Thomas H.	183
Portman, Reginald F. B.	437	Stevenson, Samuel Kirkwood	172
Potter, Levi Franklin	179		

Stewart, James Orbison	205	Van Horne, George W.	462
Stilson, O. H.	202	Van Vechten, Giles F. and C. D.	188
Stoner, Charles E.	497	Vernon, Carlton Hullet	476
Stooker, Millard Fillmore	228	Vogt, Louis	559
Stout, Henry Lane	438	Walker, William	353
Stout, James E.	259	Warren, Dr. John Nelson	310
Strahan, James Miller	519	Weeks, Elbert Wright	366
Stuart, William	320	Welch, John Robert	351
Sweeney, Joseph Henry	349	Wells, Arthur Lee	225
Tedford, James Harvey	463	Wells, Lucius	309
Tedford, Howard	464	Wernli, Jacob	260
Tedford, Judge William H.	433	Wheeler, Hial Augustus	297
Thomas, Zadok Willis	581	Whipple, William Perry	412
Thompson, Francis Marion	359	Whitaker, Romaine Adrian	345
Thompson, F. W.	174	White, Henry Barre	375
Thompson, James Knox Polk	339	Whitnall, William Rolfe	434
Thompson, John Poster	435	Whitney, Cassius Henry	487
Thompson, Walter H.	103	Wichman, John E.	207
Thompson, Judge William G.	402	Wilcox, Vinton S.	403
Tilton, John Littlefield	485	Wilken, Frank Henry	483
Tirrill, Rodney W.	226	Will, Frederick J.	340
Tittlemore, James Nelson	447	Williams, George Townsend	315
Torbert, Willard H.	378	Williams, Robert	459
Tostevin, Thomas	178	Wilson, Andrew Gordon	350
Townsend, Edward	501	Wilson, Israel P.	342
Trimble, Henry Hoffman	160	Wininger, Joseph Urban	304
Tschirgl, Matthew, Jr.	544	Winslow, Horace S.	331
Tubbs, L. W.	449	Withrow, Winfield Scott	348
Turner, George A.	248	Wood, Charles Roland	206
Tyner, George W.	526	Wood, Irving Charles	233
Upton, C. C.	385	Woodward, John C. and W. W.	264
Vail, Alexander M.	192	Work, W. A.	290
Valentine, William	532	Wright, David Sands	346
Van Allen, George C.	191	Wyant, Otis Blair	209
Van Eaton, G. L.	316	Wyman, Maj. Willie Cutter	284
Van Haveskerke, Andrea	198		

and wrote the report condemning the foundation of the capitol, which was taken out and rebuilt for the present capitol. He was also on the special committee to devise methods for protecting funds in state and county treasuries from defalcation. He was also the means of getting a law passed limiting the powers of corporations; to authorize suing in local courts on insurance policies in case of loss, and many other laws still in force. His first case in the supreme court was that of *Sandoz v. Adams County*. The case was won by him and is still a leading case in tax questions, reported in the Eleventh Iowa report.

Mr. Davis has been twice married, and is the father of six children. The eldest, Lillian D., is the wife of Rev. Howard H. Russell, of Delaware, Ohio; Avanelle is the wife of Grover C. Gray, a banker of Montpelier, Idaho; Frederick, died in infancy, 1867; Edith Estelle, Joseph Simpson, and Francis Marion, Jr., all minors, live at home in Corning.

Mr. Davis was a member of the Methodist church from 1857 to 1876, but since that time has been a Congregationalist. Aside from his law practice, he is also quite extensively engaged in farming and stock-raising.

**CASTER, Dr. PAUL**, was born in Henry county, Ind., April 30, 1827, and lived there with his parents until he was 14 years of age. About this time occurred the death of his mother, which sad event resulted in young Paul's leaving home and going to Elkhart county, Ind., where he wandered from place to place homeless and friendless. He had a serious impediment in his speech, and some mental peculiarities which prevented him from receiving an education in the usual way and threw him entirely upon his own resources mentally.

In the year 1848 he married Nancy Hatfield, a farmer's daughter. They lived on a farm for three years, when he engaged in the manufacture of chairs, wheels and hubs, in which business he was very successful for two years, when he met with a serious accident; while carrying one end of a heavy log his foot slipped on the ice and he fell, the log falling across his chest. This accident rendered him an invalid for some nine years, and he never entirely recovered from its results. Five children were born to Dr. Paul Caster and his wife: Mary Ann, John Lewis, Samuel, Sarah E., and

Jacob S., now a noted magnetic healer in Burlington, Iowa. Dr. Paul Caster removed to Decatur county, Iowa, in 1855. His wife died in 1863, and in 1864 he married Mrs. Sarah Ferrell, of Decatur county, who still survives him. To them were born four children: Margaret E., George William, Ella and Nettie.

Dr. Paul Caster, from childhood, possessed a wonderful magnetic power to heal. His first patient was a little playmate, who had what had been pronounced a cancer on her breast. One day while playing she became over-heated and suffered greatly. Little Paul felt that he could take away



the pain, and he was successful. The child's parents constituted him her physician until the sore healed. The little girl lived to womanhood, and raised a large family, and this was so early in life that the doctor did not remember his exact age; and his history shows that he continued to heal patients at various times until in 1866 he commenced his public career as a healer in Leon, Decatur county, Iowa. In 1869 he removed to Ottumwa, Iowa, where he remained until his death, April 19, 1881. Dr. Caster commenced the erection of his magnetic infirmary at Ottumwa in 1871 and completed it as it now stands in 1875. In 1877-78 he built his private residence adjoining the infirmary. These buildings

were erected at a cost of \$78,000, and stand to-day as a monument to the marvelous success attained by only fourteen years of practice in a profession that at that time was looked upon with great disfavor by the majority—especially of western people. Nevertheless he achieved a reputation second to no other magnetic healer known, and which still remains fresh in the minds of not only the people of Iowa, but of many throughout the United States, as he treated patients from almost every state in the union.

Dr. **Paul Caster** was a firm believer in the deity. He also believed that his strange power was a divine gift and, unlike some of our late healers, he did not believe that it could be taught another, but must come to each one from the same high source. Before his death he became firmly convinced that his son Jacob possessed the same power, and urged him upon his deathbed to take up the work where he was compelled to lay it down, predicting that in so doing alone would lie his future success in life. His son, in 1889, carried out his father's wishes by engaging in the work as a public healer and is carrying it forward in a manner, not only creditable to himself, but also to the reputation of his noted father, Dr. **Paul Caster**.

**CASTER**, DR. JACOB S., is a son of the late Dr. **Paul Caster**, of Ottumwa, and is a native of Decatur county, Iowa. When quite young he became associated with his father in his work in various ways. In 1874 he took charge of the engine in the heating department of his father's large infirmary, which resulted in giving him a taste for machinery that greatly influenced his after life. In 1878 he was made superintendent of the infirmary, which brought him in still closer contact with his father, and probably accounts for much of his subsequent success. He was married March 23, 1880, to Miss Mary E. Biederman, of Ottumwa, and in August of that year resigned his position as superintendent of the infirmary to engage in other business. For a short time he was employed as a machinist in the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy round house at Creston, and in November, 1881, removed to Burlington, Iowa, where he was employed as a machinist by the same company. His father had urged him strongly to use the gift of healing, which he knew he possessed, but the son was prejudiced against it, and felt

compelled to refuse his father's request. It was not until 1887, when out of sympathy for suffering friends, he treated several cases with such wonderful success, that his power became known. He was then sought after constantly by some sufferer, but according to a promise made his father, he received no pay until he came before the world publicly as a magnetic healer. In June, 1889, he received his first public patient. The following November he opened an infirmary, which soon proved too small to accommodate his patients and in June, 1891, he removed to larger quarters, and in November, 1894, to his present location on North Fourth street.



Dr. J. S. **Caster** has, like his father, had patients from nearly every state in the union and from more than 500 different cities.

He possesses a wonderful power of diagnosis, being able to accurately describe the patient's trouble, sometimes going back twenty years for causes long since forgotten by the sufferer, and this without asking a question.

He does not claim to be able to cure every case that presents itself, but his success has been something almost miraculous, as shown by the joyful testimony of hundreds of patients, including many of the most prominent people of Burlington, as well as of the state, who have been

permanently cured or have gained years of comparative health from his treatment, after being pronounced hopelessly incurable. The doctor belongs to a number of secret societies, and originated and carried out a plan for "Secret Society Day" during the semi-centennial celebration in Burlington, in October, 1890, conducting a parade which contained nineteen different secret societies. He belongs to the Masons, Odd Fellows, A. O. U. W. and other orders. The doctor is a strong advocate of the principles of the republican party, and vigorously supports that organization. In 1896 he was elected alderman in a democratic ward, by a large majority.

Dr. and Mrs. **Caster** have three children living: Charles Edwin, born February 28, 1883; Mabel Rose, born May 25, 1887, and Mary Blanche, born May 7, 1890.

**HOOPEES, WILLIAM HENRY**, who originated the system of wholesale gardening on Muscatine Island, and developed the wonderful resources of that fertile spot, is a son of Lindley Hoopes, who was married November 22, 1838, in Birmingham, Pa., to Miss Mary Addleman. The family came to Muscatine county from Pennsylvania in 1854. Lindley Hoopes was born in Chester county, Pa., in 1815, and his ancestors came from England with William Penn. They belonged to the Society of Friends, and Israel Hoopes, the first in this country, had sixteen sons. Lindley Hoopes was a builder in Pennsylvania and followed the carpenter's trade for a time after coming to Iowa. He is now engaged in farming and breeding horses, cattle and hogs in Lake township, Muscatine county. They are Methodists and strong temperance people, using their best efforts for the social and moral welfare of the country.

William H. Hoopes was born November 19, 1840, at Warrior's Mark, Huntingdon county, Pa., and was the oldest son in the family of nine children. His early education was under the tutelage of Bishop John H. Vincent of Chaataqua fame. He afterwards attended school in Muscatine. When he attained his majority he left the farm and earned his own way through a two years' course in Greenwood academy, in Muscatine. He afterwards engaged in the building business, was principal of the First ward school in Muscatine two years, and for a number of years was in the grocery and pork packing business. In 1874 he commenced the Muscatine Island

gardening business, and with various partners has been engaged in that important enterprise ever since. He now has associated with him his two sons. They have 900 acres of land under cultivation there and produce the finest sweet potatoes, melons, cabbages, peas, beans, tomatoes and onions. He also has a vegetable and dairy farm in St. Louis Park, one of the suburbs of Minneapolis. During his farming career he has introduced many labor-saving implements. Among them is one which sets plants of all kinds and saves labor and expense. Outside of his own immediate business Mr. Hoopes has helped



promote the organization of other industries, among them a canning factory, street railway, electric light plant, high bridge over the Mississippi river, and in real estate operations. In public affairs Mr. Hoopes has worked with the republican party on account of its championship of temperance principles, in which he is deeply interested and to which he has given much of his best efforts. He was elected alderman as a republican in a ward usually democratic, and helped to inaugurate some of the most important public improvements in Muscatine, including the building of Riverside Park, which turned an unsightly river front into a beautiful spot. He was

HEALING  
BY  
LAYING-ON OF HANDS.

# HEALING

BY

## LAYING-ON OF HANDS.

BY

JAMES MACK.

'The smallest hurts sometimes increase and rage  
More than all art of physic can assuage;  
Sometimes the fury of the worst disease,  
The hand, by gentle passes, will appease.'

SOLON, *translated by Stanley*, 'Hist. Phil., 1666.'



LONDON:

JAMES BURNS, 15, SOUTHAMPTON RO'

151 . o . 499

VIII.—PAUL CASTER, THE HEALER.

Mr. Warren Chase gives the following account of Paul Caster in the *Banner of Light* (Boston, Mass., U.S.) for February 5th, 1876 :

‘Among the signs of spiritual progress in Iowa is the wonderful work of this remarkable man in Otumwa. A few years ago he was an invalid, poor in person and pocket, in debt, out of health, and without education, and with an impediment in his speech, which still remains, and renders it difficult for him to talk so as to be understood. He evidently inherited some magnetic healing power, and was somewhat of a medium from his birth, as the many incidents published of his life

go to show, but he did not use this power, nor turn his *gift*, as he called it, to any practical use till the spirits restored his health and necessity drove him into it to support his family. Now he has two assistants, and they issue a monthly journal. He has built a large four-story brick house with ninety-eight rooms in it to accommodate patients, and yet is often obliged to send some to other places to board. He has a waggon load of crutches, canes, and various kinds of metallic skeletons\* from which he has rescued his patients and sent them home without them. He has this house all furnished and paid for, and owns a large amount of real estate beside. His business during 1875, as footed up and published, was as follows: Receipts for treatment, \$16,262,70; for board, \$16,554,19; \$32,806,89, and this is the eighth year of his practice. For several years his advertising was nearly all done by his patients, and by words only, but now his "Health Journal" and circulars are added, and he has added baths and the movement cure to his establishment, but still the cures are nearly all from spirit aid and by magnetic treatment through his hands, in which he has a helper in a Dr. Fry. There has just been one of those cunning little tricksters by the name of Cook here exposing Spiritualism, to the edification and delight of the clergy, but he did not heal one sick person, although the opponents say he did *all* the Spiritualists do, nor did he show one sign of the intelligence on which we rely for a spiritual origin of our phenomena; but the cry of humbug alone is sufficient to delight the clergy, and this shows the slender thread on which they now hang their hopes. They have no *faith* in **Caster** unless they are sick, and then even the devil may cure them so they can preach again. One visit to Caster's rooms, and an hour spent in conversation with him, will give more proof of spirit-life and

\* Surgical appliances.

influence than all the clergy in the city can furnish in a year, and more than all the sleight-of-hand or tricks of charlatans can furnish when backed by the whole force of the pulpit.

‘Otumwa, Iowa, January, 1876.’

---

IX.—A. S. HAYWARD.

The *Banner of Light* (Boston., Mass., U.S.) of July 22nd, 1876, contains the following paragraph respecting Mr. Hayward :

‘*Magnetism as a Curative Agent.*

‘Hon. Joshua Nye, United States Centennial Commissioner, writes as follows to A. S. Hayward, Magnetic Physician, of Boston, now located at 722, Fairmount Avenue, Philadelphia :

“‘*Office of the United States Centennial Commission, Philadelphia, June 23rd, 1876.*

“‘Dear Doctor,

“‘You cured me in twenty minutes time, after I had been on my back in agony for sixteen weeks without any relief. It was about eight years since, and I have had no return of rheumatism since.”’

---

X.—MRS. CARRIE E. S. TWING.

Mr. Thomas R. Hazard, in an article on ‘The Allopaths and Druggists *versus* the Apostolic and Magnetic Healers,’ in the *Banner of Light* (Boston, Mass., U.S.) for March 31st, 1877, says :

‘It is only very recently that Mrs. Carrie E. S. Twing, of 41, Dover Street, Boston, told me that while she was a school-teacher in Greenfield, Erie County, Pennsylvania, about eleven years ago, a young girl named Addie Whitney had lain ill for some months, and finally, as was declared by her attending physicians,

HISTORY OF  
WAPELLO COUNTY  
IOWA

---

HARRISON L. WATERMAN  
Supervising Editor

---

ILLUSTRATED

---

VOLUME I

---

CHICAGO  
THE S. J. CLARKE PUBLISHING COMPANY  
1914

Since the opening of the institution there have been graduated about sixty nurses. The course of training at first was two years, but has been lengthened to three years.

The association is now working for endowment. It comes slowly, but is coming. It now has \$8,000 for this purpose. The first endowment, \$1,000, was received from Mrs. E. Tillotson, an aunt of Dr. Murdoch Bannister, and is a memorial to her father, Dr. William Murdoch. The income from this is to be used only to care for worthy women. Mrs. Johnson Utt left \$5,000 by will. Mrs. T. A. Fulton has given \$500, endowment for the perpetual maintenance of the Ann Mast Room, in memory of her mother, who was the first person to furnish a room in the hospital and for whom the room is named.

#### ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL

In the year 1862, Father John Kreckel induced the Sisters of Visitation to come here from Keokuk and establish an academy. Soon thereafter the large brick structure on East Fourth Street was erected by them, where a boarding school or convent was established and maintained in the old home, until in the fall of 1913 a magnificent new academy was erected northeast of the city, to which this school was transferred.

Being ever alive to the local interests of the church, Father Kreckel was instrumental in the coming to Ottumwa in August, 1877, of the Sisters of Humility of Mary, then at St. Joseph, Missouri, the object of the order being among others, to establish hospitals. The sisters founded St. Joseph's and at once opened a sanitarium in a rented house, located on North Court Street, where it remained some years. Eventually the Sisters of Humility of Mary bought the convent building of the Sisters of Visitation and after expending about twelve thousand dollars on the property, in the way of remodeling and renovation, opened the doors of the building to the public on the 23d day of February, 1914. When built, in the early '60s, the building that is now St. Joseph's Hospital cost about thirty-five thousand dollars; the present value of the property is not far from seventy-five thousand dollars. The structure is a three-story brick with basement and has a long frontage on Fourth Street. The interior was rearranged for its new purposes and contains offices, waiting rooms, four wards, dispensary, bath rooms, dining rooms, and twenty-three private rooms for patients, these rooms being mostly furnished by individuals, societies or clubs, irrespective of creed. Sister Mary Peter is in charge of this splendid institution, and Sister Catherine Holehouse is superintendent of nurses.

#### A NOTED HEALER OF THE AFFLICTED

Dr. Paul Caster was born in Henry County, Indiana, April 30, 1827, and lived there with his parents until he was fourteen years of age. About

this time occurred the death of his mother, which sad event resulted in young Paul's leaving home and going to Elkhart County, Indiana, where he wandered from place to place, homeless and friendless. He had a serious impediment in his speech, and some mental peculiarities which prevented him from receiving an education in the usual way, that threw him entirely upon his own resources mentally.

In the year 1848 he married Nancy Hatfield, a farmer's daughter. They lived on a farm for three years, where he engaged in the manufacture of chairs, wheels and hubs; he was successful, but met with a serious accident while carrying one end of a heavy log, and was an invalid some nine years. Five children were born to Dr. Paul Caster and his wife: Mary Ann, John Lewis, Samuel, Sarah E., and Jacob S., now a noted magnetic healer in Burlington, Iowa. Dr. Paul Caster removed to Decatur County, Iowa, in 1855. His wife died in 1863, and in 1864 he married Mrs. Sarah Ferrell, of Decatur County, who still survives him. To them were born four children: Margaret E., George William, Ella and Nettie.

Dr. Paul Caster, from childhood, possessed a wonderful magnetic power to heal. His first patient was a little playmate, who had what had been pronounced a cancer on her breast. One day while playing she became overheated and suffered greatly. Little Paul felt that he could take away the pain, and was successful. The child's parents made him her physician until the sore healed. The little girl lived to womanhood and raised a large family. This was so early in life that the doctor did not remember his exact age; and his history shows that he continued to heal patients at various times until 1866, when he commenced his public career as a healer in Leon, Decatur County, Iowa. In 1869 he removed to Ottumwa, Iowa, where he remained until his death, April 19, 1881. Dr. Caster commenced the erection of his magnetic infirmary at Ottumwa in 1871 and completed it as it now stands in 1875. In 1877-78 he built a residence adjoining the infirmary. These buildings were erected at a cost of \$78,000, and stand today as a monument to the marvelous success attained by fourteen years of practice in a profession that at that time was looked upon with great disfavor by the majority—especially of western people. Nevertheless, he achieved a reputation second to no other magnetic healer known, and which still remains fresh in the minds of not only the people of Iowa, but of many throughout the United States, as he treated patients from almost every state in the Union.

Dr. Paul Caster was a firm believer in the Deity. He also believed that his strange power was a divine gift and, unlike some later healers, he did not believe that it could be taught to another, but must come to each one from the same high source. Before his death he became firmly convinced that his son, Jacob, possessed the same power, and urged him upon his deathbed, to take up the work where he was compelled to lay

it down, predicting that in so doing alone would lie his future success in life. His son in 1889, carried out his father's wishes by engaging in the work as a public healer and is carrying it forward at Burlington in a manner not only creditable to himself, but also to the reputation of his noted father.

As a matter of history it might be well to state, by way of parenthesis, that Dr. Andrew T. Still, founder of the osteopathic college at Kirksville, Missouri, was one of Doctor Caster's patients. It was soon discovered that Dr. Still possessed the same magnetic virtue as "Doctor Paul," and the latter advised Doctor Still to start in the practice and, shortly thereafter, began treating patients according to his preceptor's system and finally started the school in Kirksville, Missouri, which now has a national reputation as the leading college of osteopathy in this country.

#### THE HOME FINDING ASSOCIATION

The American Home Finding Association had its beginning twelve years ago before it was organized. On stormy night a pale-faced woman was pacing the floor of a depot, waiting a belated train, and trying to quiet a large, fretful baby. A minister, who with his wife, was also waiting, took and cared for the baby for two hours, while the weary woman sat and talked with the clergyman's wife, telling her that the child was motherless and that she was taking it to an orphan's home. Eight years passed; every one who came to that minister's church in the name of orphan children received hearty co-operation. Finally, the minister came to feel it was his turn to take a part in helping children who could not help themselves. He gave up his pastorate and came to the City of Ottumwa, began work with the society, whose representative he had assisted so many years before, and which had started his thoughts toward the work of child-saving. After laboring for four and a half years with the above named society, the need became manifest for a larger work, and the American Home Finding Association was incorporated July 26, 1899, with the following named gentlemen as incorporators: Judge M. A. Roberts, Maj. Samuel Mahon, J. B. Sax, Hon. W. A. McIntire, Rev. Father John O'Farrel and Rev. U. B. Smith.

The work began July 1st, with Rev. U. B. Smith as superintendent. On that day came two children and \$100 to start the new institution in its grand undertaking. Since that day the association has never been out of either children or money, and credit never was refused; not a debt or claim ever has been presented that was not promptly paid, though once its account at the bank was overdrawn and at another period the home had but three cents in the bank. It was slow work.



IMAGES  
*of America*

# OTTUMWA

Michael W. Lemberger  
and Wilson J. Warren

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The photographs in this book are selected from the collection of Michael W. Lemberger, which have been assembled from many sources. Our thanks go to the photographers now deceased who gave their negatives and prints, including Lynn Lancey, Dick Hofmann, "Skinny" Nimocks, and Norm Hill, and to friends who tracked down collections and information and in some cases purchased photographs and negatives at auction, including Karl Hoff.

Without LeAnn Lemberger's help, we could not have completed this book. LeAnn diligently fact-checked and expertly edited the entire text and suggested several useful sources. In addition, she contacted several local experts on Ottumwa's history for clarification or additional information.

I am grateful to Western Michigan University Library's Resource Sharing Center for efficiently providing me with several books I needed for references.

As always, my family, Jane, John, James, and Katherine, supported my interests and efforts and put up with my constant distractions.

—Wilson J. Warren

My thanks go to Sue Parrish, Molly Myers Naumann, Elsie Mae Cofet, St. Suzanne Wickenskamp, St. Donna Donovan, Ab Yochum, Jimmy Hemm, Pat Myers-Lock, Irene Weinberg, Bessie Ullman, Mike O'Hara, Betty Burdock, Bill Duree, Jerry Lee, and Bob Nandell; to the Wapello County Historical Society and Iowa State Historical Society for information and reference material; and to the Ottumwa Courier, whose news stories and historical articles from the 1890s to the present have been invaluable. Dr. Loren Horton and Dr. Donald Woolley were both inspirations, insistent that this book must be written.

—Michael W. Lemberger

Bill Warren may be contacted at Department of History, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49008.

Michael Lemberger may be contacted at P.O. Box 935, Ottumwa, Iowa, 52501-0935, or through his Web site at [www.mlemberger.com](http://www.mlemberger.com).



**DR. CASTER'S HOTEL AND INFIRMARY.** Dr. Caster's Hotel and Infirmary was constructed in 1874 (left) and had new wings added to it in 1875 and 1876 (right). In 1894, he sold the property and it later became the first Ottumwa Hospital. After Ottumwa Hospital moved to Second Street, the building became an apartment house. The **Caster** family owned nearly the entire block bordered by Main, Cherry, Second, and Birch Streets.



**DR. PAUL CASTER.**

Although he had a limited education, Dr. **Paul Caster** became a well-known healer, and in the words of one historian was the most famous magnetic or rubbing doctor Iowa has ever had. This studio portrait shows him with discarded crutches and canes that his patients apparently no longer needed.

---

## OTTUMWA, IOWA

---

Long one of Iowa's most important industrial cities, Ottumwa was established on the banks of the Des Moines River in 1843. The river was both a blessing, providing transportation as well as ice for early meatpacking plants, and a curse, inundating the city with periodic floods until it was tamed in the latter half of the 20th century. This collection of vintage photographs highlights the city's industries and laboring people, the river's role in the shaping of the community, and Ottumwa's unique place in history as the location of the Iowa Coal Palace and Industrial Exhibits of 1890 and 1891 and the Ottumwa Naval Air Station during the World War II era.

Michael W. Lemberger, a longtime resident of Ottumwa, is an award-winning professional photographer and artist who for more than 50 years has collected historic photographs. Most of the images in this book came from his private collections. Wilson J. Warren, an Ottumwa native, is associate professor of history at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. A labor historian with a special interest in Iowa's industrial history, Warren is the author of a book focused on Ottumwa's meatpacking history and a forthcoming book on the history of meatpacking in the Midwest.

The Images of America series celebrates the history of neighborhoods, towns, and cities across the country. Using archival photographs, each title presents the distinctive stories from the past that shape the character of the community today. Arcadia is proud to play a part in the preservation of local heritage, making history available to all.

---

PUBLISHED BY ARCADIA  
WWW.ARCADIAUBLISHING.COM

---

\$19.99

ISBN 0-7345-4106-0



5 1 9 9 9



## Historical Perspectives

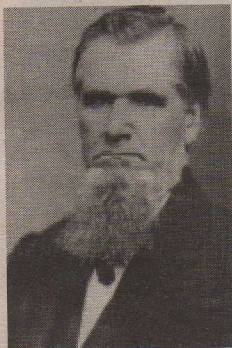
# The Casters of Iowa: from Magnetic to Chiropractic



Joseph C. Keating Jr., PhD

While it is fairly well known that D.D. Palmer's development of chiropractic was an outgrowth of his practice as a magnetic healer (Beck, 1991; Palmer, 1910, p. 111), it is less well known how the lives of the Palmers and the Caster family intertwined in the early years of this century. Palmer had been attracted to the field of "animal magnetism," a derivative of Anton Mesmer, MD's beliefs, through his readings in spiritualism, mysticism and the emerging science of biology, as popularized by Charles Darwin. Mesmer, whose 1776 doctoral dissertation at the University of Vienna was entitled "On the influence of the planets upon the human body by means of a magnetic force," had his ideas debunked by a panel of scientists led by Benjamin Franklin. Despite their findings that magnetic healing amounted to little more than the power of suggestion, Mesmer's methods became popular in Europe. By the mid-nineteenth century, magnetic healing had become popular in America, and the practice was even licensed in one or two

states. It would be Palmer's personal search for an understanding of how his magnetic methods helped his patients that led him to his first theory of chiropractic (Keating, 1991).



Paul Caster

Iowa had a reputation for its magnetic practitioners. Paul Caster of Ottumwa, a distant relative of General George Custer and descendant from the original members of William Penn's colony, had operated a magnetic healing clinic and infirmary from 1869 until his death in 1881. Unschooled, fiercely religious and considered a giant at six feet, 10 inches tall, Caster believed his ability to heal was God-given. His infirmary provided treatment by magnetic and other drugless healers, and published a monthly magazine, *The Health Journal*. Caster traveled widely to teach and practice his methods. With the growth of the railroads in the

United States during the later half of the nineteenth century, his mobility increased dramatically, as did that of the patients who sought his care by journeying to Ottumwa for his ministrations. As Caster's reputation grew, he attracted a growing clientele of ailing individuals throughout the USA and Canada.

D.D. Palmer, who raised his family in several communities not too distant from Ottumwa, may have visited Dr. Caster at his 40-bed infirmary, although this is disputed. Certainly, Palmer would have been very aware of Paul Caster, and could have availed himself of this opportunity, had he chosen to. Palmer commenced his own magnetic practice in the river city of Burlington, Iowa in 1886, at which time he would have been in competition with Paul Caster's son, Jacob Sylvester Caster, who was born in 1860 and practiced part-time while working as a machinist for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company. Palmer had relocated to Davenport, Iowa by 1887, where his practice expanded over the next nine years to an extent that rivaled Paul Caster's Ottumwa infirmary. Meanwhile, J.S. Caster gradually expanded into full-time magnetic practice at the urging of the many friends he had treated successfully. J.S. was very well respected in Burlington, and in 1904 was elected to the first of several terms as a Republican mayor of Burlington. He served in 1905 as president of the Iowa League of Municipalities.



D.D. Palmer

J.S. Caster's son, Charles Edgar Caster, was born on May 27, 1879. He graduated from the Palmer School of Chiropractic sometime prior to 1918, established a practice in the American Bank Building in Burlington, and was licensed to practice chiropractic in Iowa in 1921 (Jackson, 1995). He was

joined in practice for a time by Helen

## The Casters of Iowa: from Magnetic to Chiropractic

Cont'd from page 18

served in the leadership in chiropractic in the twentieth. As ever, further investigation is warranted.

### References:

Beck BL. Magnetic healing, spiritualism and chiropractic: Palmer's union of methodologies, 1886-1895. *Chiropractic History* 1991 (Dec); 11(2): 10-16

Caster CE. They said they were crazy. *ICA International Review of Chiropractic* 1953 (Nov); 8(5): 14, 32

Eleventh annual convention. *The Hawkeye Chiropractor* 1927 (Dec); 3(1): 1, 5

*Fountain Head News* 1918 [A.C. 23] (Aug 17); 7(49): 6

Jackson RB. Letter to J.C. Keating, December 12, 1995

Keating JC. The embryology of chiropractic thought. *European Journal of Chiropractic* 1991 (Dec); 39(3): 75-89

Palmer DD. *The chiropractor's adjuster: the science, art and philosophy of chiropractic*. Portland OR: Portland Printing House, 1910

Radio directory. *The Chiropractor* 1942 (Sept); 38(9): 25-6

Joseph C. Keating, Jr., Ph.D.  
E-mail: JCKeating@aol.com



have availed himself of this opportunity, had he chosen to. Palmer commenced his own magnetic practice in the river city of Burlington, Iowa in 1886, at which time he would have been in competition with Paul Caster's son, Jacob Sylvester Caster, who was born in 1860 and practiced part-time while working as a machinist for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company. Palmer had relocated to Davenport, Iowa by 1887, where his practice expanded over the next nine years to an extent that rivaled Paul Caster's Ottumwa infirmary. Meanwhile, J.S. Caster gradually expanded into full-time magnetic practice at the urging of the many friends he had treated successfully. J.S. was very well respected in Burlington, and in 1904 was elected to the first of several terms as a Republican mayor of Burlington. He served in 1905 as president of the Iowa League of Municipalities.

J.S. Caster's son, Charles Edgar Caster, was born on May 27, 1879. He graduated from the Palmer School of Chiropractic sometime prior to 1918, established a practice in the American Bank Building in Burlington, and was licensed to practice chiropractic in

Iowa in 1921 (Jackson, 1995). He was joined in practice for a time by Helen Hamilton, DC. Dr. Caster was a founding member (date unknown) of the Iowa Chiropractors Association (Eleventh, 1927). C.E. Caster, DC was fiercely loyal to B.J. Palmer, DC. In 1918 he was among some 115 Palmer alumni who joined with "BJ," Sylva Ashworth, DC, James R. Drain, DC and James F. McGinnis, DC to organize the Chiropractors' Moving Picture Association (Fountain, 1918).

Caster served on the first Board of Control (and for many years thereafter) of the Chiropractic Health Bureau (today's International Chiropractors Association), which the younger Palmer organized following his unsuccessful re-election bid at the Universal Chiropractors Association's 1926

convention. At this time C.E. Caster was also serving as secretary-treasurer of the Iowa Chiropractors Association, and during 1926 through 1929 he was the editor of the monthly state journal, *The Hawkeye Chiropractor*. He worked strenuously to block passage of Iowa's basic science bill, which was finally enacted in 1935. In the 1940s Caster earned a local reputation for his chiropractic broadcasts on Burlington radio station KBUR (Radio, 1942). In the 1950s, Dr. Caster was active in the International Chiropractic Laymen's Society (Caster, 1953). He died on January 18, 1957 at the age of 77.

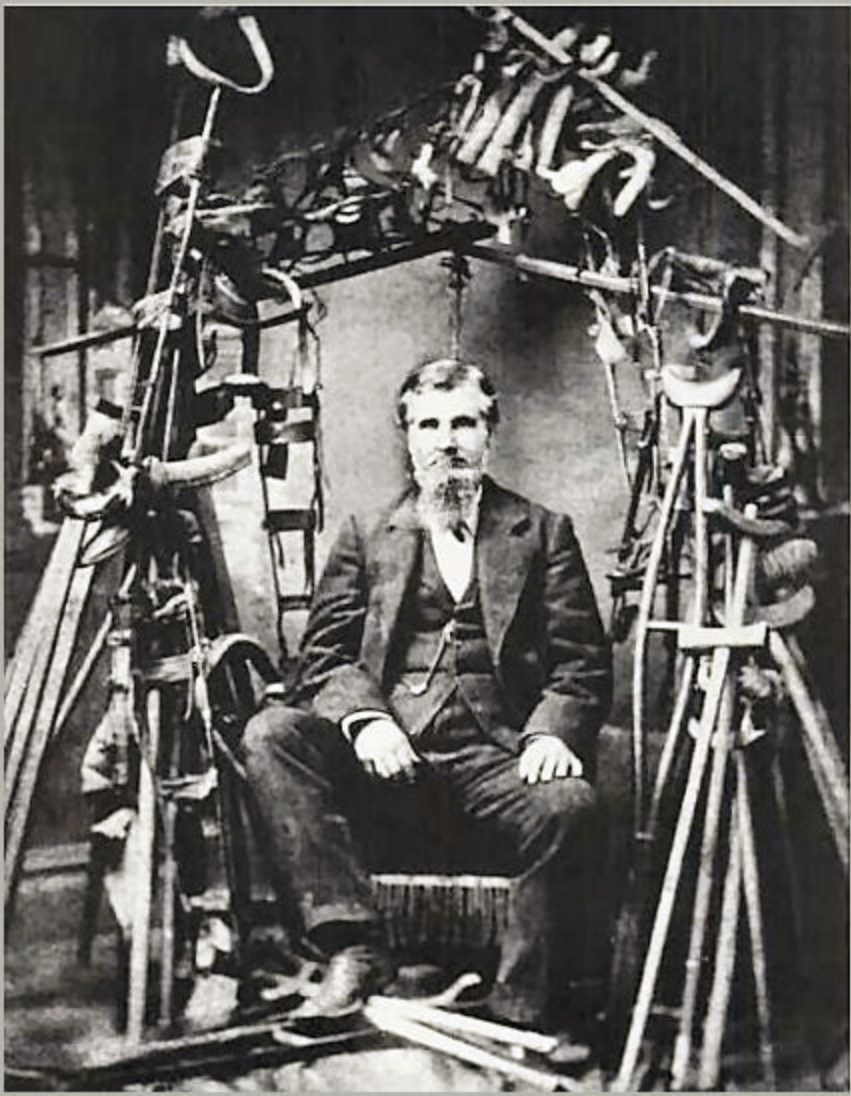
How C.E. Caster came to chiropractic is not known to this writer. But it is of interest that the Casters, like the Palmers, were magnetic healers in the nineteenth century and served in the leadership in chiropractic in the twentieth. As ever, further investigation is warranted.

Cont'd on page 34

D.D. Palmer



"Leaders of the Iowa Chiropractors Association opened the organization's annual convention here this morning. Among early arrivals were: Helen L. Hamilton, assistant secretary, and C.E. Caster, Burlington, secretary; R.L. Sheeler, Council Bluffs, vice president, and A.V. Coble, Woodbine, president." *The Hawkeye Chiropractor* 1927 (Dec); 3(1): 10



1874



DR. CASTER'S HOTEL AND INFIRMARY



1876

Dr. Caster's Hotel and Infirmary



# The Glendon



Main and Cherry  
Streets



OTTUMWA  
IOWA

**100 Outside Rooms, furnished Single or in Suites for Housekeeping.  
Reasonable Rates.**

**THE GLENDON.** Built in stages in the 1870s by Dr. Paul Caster, this building served as the Caster Hotel and Infirmary. It later briefly housed Ottumwa Hospital while a new hospital was constructed on East Second and College Streets. It became the Glendon, a sort of combination hotel and apartment house, and was also referred to as the La Force House. The building, by then very dilapidated, was torn down in 1983. (David Longdo collection.)

SCHEDULE 1. Free Inhabitants in Franklin County in the County of Locust State  
 of Indiana enumerated by me, on the 2nd day of August 1880. C. E. Bridger Asst. Marshal  
 Post Office Franklin.

Post Office			Description.			Value of Estate Owned.		Place of Birth, Naming the State, Territory, or Country.		Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.			
Dwelling-house numbered in the order of visitation.	Family numbered in the order of visitation.	The name of every person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1880, was in this family.	Age.	Sex.	White, Black, or Colored.	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male and female, over 15 years of age.	Value of Real Estate.	Value of Personal Estate.		Married within the year.	Attended School within the year.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1		Mathias Heasler 12 M							Indiana				
2		John Heasler 9 M							Indiana				
3		William Heasler 4 M							Indiana				
4		Elizabeth Heasler 3 F							Indiana				
5	1154/105	John Handman 45 M				Farmer	200	200	Ohio				
6		Rebecca Handman 40 F							Indiana				
7		David Handman 32 M				Farmer			Indiana				
8		Christopher Handman 30 M				Farmer			Indiana				
9		Martha Handman 18 M				Farmer			Indiana				
10		Harriet Handman 15 F							Indiana				
11		Esther Handman 13 F							Indiana				
12		Robert Handman 11 M							Indiana				
13		Mary Handman 8 F							Indiana				
14		Elizabeth Handman 5 F							Indiana				
15	1155/106	Paul Caster 33 M				Chairmaker	300	50	Indiana				
16		Mary Caster 34 F							Ohio				
17		Mary Caster 10 F							Indiana				
18		John Caster 6 M							Indiana				
19		Samuel Caster 4 M							Indiana				
20		Frank Caster 2 M							Indiana				
21	1156/108	William B. Wells 41 M				Farmer	300	300	Ohio				
22		Elizabeth Wells 31 F							Ohio				
23		August Wells 9 M							Indiana				
24		John Wells 8 M							Indiana				
25		Mary L. Wells 5 F							Indiana				
26		Frank Wells 2 M							Indiana				
27		Elizabeth Wells 1 F							Indiana				
28	1157/109	Mrs. Kinder 25 M				Blacksmith	100	100	Indiana				
29		Mary Kinder 23 F							Ohio				
30		Elizabeth Kinder 3 F							Indiana				
31		Clara, etc. Kinder 9 M							Indiana				
32	1158/110	James Howell 31 M				Farmer	100	100	Illinois				
33		Nesana Howell 18 F							Indiana				
34		Charles J. Howell 2 M							Indiana				
35		Thomas J. Howell 5 M							Indiana				
36	1159/111	Mrs. Howell 40 F					100	50	Virginia				
37		Quincy Howell 13 M							Indiana				
38	1160/112	James Handley 46 M				Farmer	600	400	Ohio				
39		Mary Handley 36 F							Ohio				
40		Charles H. Handley 18 M				Printer			Ohio				
No. white males, 21 No. colored males, No. foreign born, No. blind, 1900									No. idiotic, No. paupers, No. convicts,				
No. white females, 19 No. colored females, No. deaf and dumb, No. insane, 1200													